Appendix

[Vide item II, page 1 supra.]

Special address by the Governor, His Excellency Shri Sri Prakasa under Article 176 (1) *of the Constitution of India, to the Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly and Council assembled together at the New Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at* 5 *p.m. on Tuesday, 6th May* 1952.

Hon. Members of the Legislature,

With this session of the State Legislature, we commence a new chapter in the history of our State. Before I proceed further, I would like to express on behalf of our State our regret at the passing away of King George VI, the Head of the Commonwealth of which our Republic has elected to be a member. The late King worthily upheld the great traditions of the British monarchy and endeared himself to all. We send our people's respectful greetings and good wishes to Queen Elizabeth.

This is the first session of the State Legislature as constituted in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of India, and I congratulate you on being members of this historic legislature. A democratic Constitution like ours will be largely what the voters and legislators make of it. The voters have done their part, and it is up to you, the legislators, to help in evolving sound traditions.

In his Address at the commencement of the last session of the old legislature, my predecessor assured the hon. Members of that legislature, and through them, the general public, that the Government were determined to do all that lay in their power to ensure that the general elections were conducted with absolute impartiality and fairness to all the contesting parties and candidates and appealed for the co-operation of all the parties for achieving that result. I think we may claim that that assurance has been fulfilled. The largest share of the credit for this result must go to the several millions of voters, men and women, who exercised their franchise in an orderly manner.

My Government assumed office on 10th April 1952. Owing to the shortness of time between that date and now, my Address will not cover as much matter as ordinarily, at the beginning of a session, the Address may be expected to deal with. We could not possibly postpone this sitting in view of clause (1) of Article 382 of the Constitution. After completing the necessary business at this sitting, it has been decided that you will be called upon to gather again in June and I shall address you again at the commencement of that sitting under clause (1) of Article 175. At that sitting of the Legislature, the full Budget for the current financial year will have to be passed, and it will be an occasion when there can be a comprehensive review of all matters which are important from the point of view of the welfare and development of the State.

[8th May 1952

During the financial year 1951–52, this State experienced a failure of both the monsoons for the fifth year in succession. Cultivation of food crops suffered most seriously in four entire districts and in parts of six other districts. Relief measures have been extended to the affected areas by the grant of liberal wet and dry remissions and by providing relief works for labourers thrown out of employment by reason of this drought. The collection of takkavi instalments has been postponed till the next fasli year in these areas. Takkavi and subsistence loans and loans for deepening field wells are also being sanctioned on a liberal scale in the affected areas. To meet the distress caused by the drought, drinking-water wells are being deepened in a large number of places. The Army of India is rendering great assistance in this respect. A number of water lorries have been loaned by them for distribution of water in the areas where scarcity of drinking water is most acute. Gruel centres have been opened in large numbers and free gruel is served to infirm and disabled persons and to women and children. The Government of India have sent a large quantity of multi-vitamin tablets and milk powder for distribution in the areas of distress. To relieve scarcity of fodder, the reserved forests in the districts of Cuddapah, Chittoor and Anantapur have been thrown open for free grazing, and free removal of hill grass. Arrangements have also been made to import fodder and grass from the surplus districts and to sell them at concessional rates to the ryots in the drought affected districts, where purchasing power has been considerably reduced. Several voluntary organizations have offered free gifts of fodder and grain and transport facilities have been arranged at State cost for moving them to the affected areas. The Prime Minister of India has most generously assisted us from his Relief Fund. A Madras State Famine Relief Fund has been organized and I trust there will be good response to our appeal.

The Government of India have assisted us to find ways and means accommodation to the extent of two crores of rupees by purchasing securities held by the State Government and have agreed to make a free grant not exceeding Rs. 48 lakhs to help run gruel centres. We are most grateful to the Government of India and to the voluntary organizations for all their assistance. My Government will endeavour to give adequate relief in all the areas where there is distress on account of the failure of the monsoons.

Owing to the successive failure of the monsoons during the last five years, the food situation in the State continues to be difficult. The latest estimates indicate that the production of rice this year will be less than the normal by nearly 10 lakhs tons and the production of millets by nearly 4 lakhs tons. Allotments by the Government of India from the All-India pool will be mostly in the shape of wheat and milo, and the rice quota is expected to be less than 2 lakhs tons. As against this, it may be noted that we have been lucky to some extent in seasonal conditions in the surplus districts, and there is no reason to apprehend that there will be any deterioration in procurement. The Government of India have permitted this State to increase the procurement price of paddy by

one rupee per maund up to the end of May this year in addition to the increase of eight annas per maund sanctioned in December last. This will not affect the consumers' prices.

The recent general slump has resulted in considerable distress to those engaged in the large handloom industry of this State. My Government are giving anxious thought to this subject and will announce the measures which they propose to take after consulting all the interests concerned.

There is an urgent piece of legislation to be put through at this meeting of the legislature. It relates to immovable properties which were requisitioned for purposes of the State Government under the Defence of India Rules during the last War and which continued to be subject to requisition under Central Act XVII of 1947, the life of which was extended for a period of one year from 1st April 1951 by Madras Act II of 1951. As the work of derequisitioning of these properties could not be completed before the end of March 1952, immediate action had to be taken to extend the life of the Central Act referred to, for a further period of one year from 1st April 1952. The Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) (Madras Amendment) Amendment Ordinance, 1952 (Madras Ordinance I of 1952), extending the life of the Central Act till 1st April 1953 in respect of immovable properties requisitioned for State purposes, was promulgated on the 31st March 1952. A self-contained Bill replacing this Ordinance will be introduced during the present sittings of the Legislature.

I have done. I am sure that your debates and deliberations in this and future sittings of the new legislature of this State will be conducted with the same high sense of public duty and responsibility as in the past, and I pray that you may be guided by faith, courage and wisdom in your counsels.

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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS